

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
610 BONUS AVE
BELVIDERE, IL 61008



The Courier

OCTOBER 2025



Belvidere First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LOVIN' JESUS  LOVIN' YOU

October Newsletter

Now that autumn is fully upon us, my family enjoys visiting an orchard each year to savor the beauty of God's creation ripening into fall. We delight in caramel apples and stock up on apple cider, taking in the colors, smells, and rhythms of the season. As we enjoy these gifts, we are reminded that all of creation has been entrusted to us, and with that trust comes the responsibility to care for it—and for one another.

When God entrusted life to us, the responsibility was never limited to the earth and its resources alone. We are also called to care for one another and to nurture the community where faith takes root and grows. Being made in God's image means that our lives are not meant to revolve around ourselves, but to open outward in love and service.

Caring for our neighbors is more than an act of kindness. It is a way of living out our calling as God's stewards. When we share our time, gifts, and resources, we are returning to God what has been entrusted to us. This stewardship takes shape in simple yet profound ways—by walking alongside those who feel alone, offering comfort to the grieving, encouraging the weary, and lifting up those in need.

The same is true within the church. We are not consumers of a spiritual product but stewards of a living body. By supporting worship and prayer, by nurturing the next generation, and by showing genuine care for one another, we strengthen the witness of Christ's body in the world.

Stewardship is not a burden but a gift. It allows us to participate in God's ongoing work of redeeming, healing, reconciling, and bringing hope. As we care for our neighbors and our church family, we discover joy and freedom in living as those entrusted with God's love.

See you at church.

Pastor Jay

Check out these books from our church library in October!

For Kids: Someone I Loved Died by Tangvalk/Maham

For Women: God Does Not by Laytham

For Men: Touch Holiness By Duck/Tirabassi



UWF Bazaar

November 7th

Hamball Luncheon

11am-1pm

Tickets \$15 each



May be purchased from a member, or the church office, beginning October 12th

Granny's Attic

9am-2pm

Items make wonderful gifts! Drop off items in good condition (Christmas, glassware, linens, collectibles, antiques) November 3 & 4



Our prayer team is always ready to pray for you, or someone you know. If you have a prayer request, please

contact Karen Frazer @ 815-985-7970, or contact the Church office at 815-544-3479.



Active Military

Do you have a family member serving in the military?

Please contact Ruth Bower, and let us know so we can be encouraging and praying for them. Here is what we need:

- Name of active family member and their relation to you
- Branch of military
- Location serving
- Address to send correspondence

Hospitality Team

2Kings 4: 8-10 One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. ⁹ She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. ¹⁰ Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

Would you like to meet and greet visitors to our church? Then our Hospitality Team may be the place for you. Contact the church office at 815-544-3479 for more information, if you feel God nudging you towards this team.





**Saturday November 15th
7:30am-10 am * Perry Hall
Adults \$10 - Kids \$5 (10 &
Under)**



Pancake Breakfast

**Serving: Pancakes,
scrambled eggs, sau-
sage, applesauce, and a
beverage.**

**Proceeds to benefit ASP &
Adult Missions.**

**See a UMM member, or
stop in the church office for
tickets.**

UWF

(United Women in Faith)

All ladies of the church are welcome to
attend the general meetings.

Board Meeting—October 6th, 1pm

General Meeting—October 7th, 10am

We will be playing Bingo. Lots of fun and
laughs. Can win Gift cards and a "beautiful "
white elephant gift or both. Please plan to
attend for a fun morning and some delicious
"eats".

We hope to see you there!! BINGO!!!!

No

UMM

October

Meeting



October 20-24

Sign up in gathering area or call
the
church office.



Save the Date!!

10/19

FREE celebration breakfast.

RSVP in Gathering area

**or by calling
the church office.**



October Greeter Schedule

October 5 Sandra Fidler
October 12 Carla Walter
October 19 Carol Rowe
October 26 Jeanette Gardner

October Ushers

Curt Newport
Tammie Bahling
Rich Bahling



CARE NOTES

***Care Notes** are small booklets offering strength, help and healing for a variety of topics that impact everyday lives at a very personal level. They for free to those who are hurting and in need of them.*

Topics range from Overcoming Everyday Anxiety to dealing with Depression, Abuse, Grief, Financial Stress, Addictions, Dementia and Suicide. There are booklets for children, teens, and adults. Check out the **Care Notes** rack in the main hall just outside of the office.

***October Altar
Flowers***

October 5 Mark &

Nancy Petersen

October 12 Rich &

Tammie Bahling

October 19 Kenny &

Chris Freeman

October 26 Carol Rowe

**Celebrate Good Times!
Come on!**

On Saturday the 18th, many of our leaders will meet with our visiting coach, Jaye (with an E) Johnson from the Iowa Annual Conference. On Sunday the 19th we will wrap up our Stewardship series with a Celebration Brunch after worship in Perry Hall. Coach Jaye will come and share with us the results of our recent survey and how we can build on our strengths in the next chapter of our life together.

Oops! Haven't completed the survey yet? You can still sneak in under the wire if you complete by October 2. Call the office for help. Look for pledge cards and RSVP's for brunch in worship, or again, call the church office for info.

Debbi Bloomingdale is a Notary. If you need something notarized, please call the church office. This service is free to church members and their families.





Ministry by, with and for women, supporting spiritual growth individually and in community, encouraging and recognizing the unique needs that come with life stages.

Adapted from www.resourceumc.org/en/topics/womens-ministry

Please join us for our October 11, 10am, Women's Ministry Gathering. Please call any of the ministry team with questions, (Karen Frazer, Pam Rossmiller, Carla Walter, Linda Lennon or Cindy Poulter). We'll save you a seat.

I would like to thank my church family for your prayers, cards, and visits after my recent surgery and rehabilitation. It is so wonderful to be a part of such a caring congregation!

Sincerely,
Glenda Bahling

**Thank
You!**



Visitation Team

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

1 Peter 4:10

Our world is a busy, busy place; yet among all the busyness, many people suffer from social isolation. How can we help deal with that problem? As followers of Jesus Christ, we can offer God's love to others by offering a word of encouragement, by providing a listening ear or by spending time with someone in need. As the hands and feet of Christ, we should use our gifts for his service.

If you know of someone the Visitation Team should be visiting or if you have suggestions on how the team could more effectively minister, please notify us or contact the church office at (815) 544-3479.

"What wonders a bit of encouragement can do! It's one of the most awesome treasures God has given to us - the ability to inspire, motivate, and reassure others." Barbara Johnson

The Visitation Team: Karen McClenthen, Mary Lou Poulter, Linda Clair, Rene Worden & Janet Wheeler



Minute for Missions

Thank you to everyone who donated cereal for Empower Boone Food Pantry. Our response was amazing and they were very thankful!

What exciting things are coming up that you can help with?

- Birthday Bags: Once again we will be distributing Gift bags for you to fill with items to help celebrate birthdays. The list will be inside the bag. Bags will be handed out on October 5.
- Northern Illinois Food Bank Truck Distribution: Wednesday, October 15 Volunteers needed at 2:30
- Meals on Wheels: We will deliver meals the week of October 20-24.

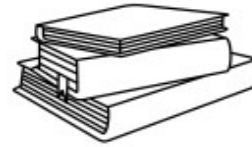
What is our Mission Team busy with?

- District 100 Connection: We have distributed headphones to each of the elementary schools and continue to work with the nurses to provide clothing, hygiene products and snacks.
- Northwoods: We are excited to be adding a connection to Northwoods Center to help with the needs of more seniors in our community.
- Empower Boone: We continue to help supply needed items to the Food Pantry.

The Mission Team is thankful for the overwhelming support of the church. It is only with this help that we are able to reach out to those in need.

WORD SEARCH

Books of the New Testament



RicLDP Artworks

Words are placed vertically, horizontally and diagonally, either forwards or backwards.

Matthew
Luke
Philippians
Romans
Timothy

Revelation
Corinthians
Jude
Thessalonians
Epesians

Colossians
Galatians
James
Mark
Philemon

Titus
Peter
Hebrews
John
Acts

October is Pastor appreciation month.

If you would like to drop off a card for our Pastors, bring them to the church office. Let's show them how much we love and appreciate them!

There is also a sign up sheet in the gathering area to pick an October day to pray for our Pastors.



Youth Event

Orchard Visit in October

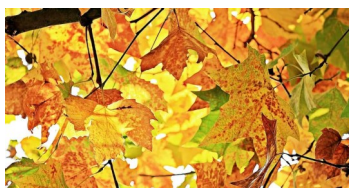
On October 5, right after worship, our youth group will head to Edward Orchard for a cozy fall outing! We'll enjoy apple cider, and apple cider donuts while taking in the beautiful autumn colors together. It's a perfect way to celebrate the season with friends and family—don't miss it!



Youth Helping Hands – Leaf Raking in November

On November 9, our youth group will be helping some of our church's older members with fall leaf raking. If you or someone you know would like assistance, please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

If you'd like, you are also welcome to join our youth in raking and serving together! We look forward to sharing this time of work and fellowship as a church family.



The Spiritual Significance of Tithing

Tithing is a practice deeply rooted in scripture, symbolizing obedience, faith and gratitude toward God. By giving the first 10% of our income, we demonstrate trust in God and acknowledge Him as the ultimate source of our blessings. This act is a spiritual discipline that fosters a closer relationship with God.

Malachi 3:10, *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”*

<u>2025 Financial Information</u>				
	August	Year-to-Date		
Income	44,507.06	307,884.21	Annual Apportionment	61,764.00
Expenses	39,941.83	335,747.22	Apportionment paid to date	29,982.55
Net Income (Loss)	4,565.23	(27,863.01)		



WE NEED CANDY DONATIONS TO MAKE THIS GREAT!

**Please bring your donations
to the church by
October 26th.**

There will be sign-ups later to help at the event.

Bible Reading Plan 2024

Date	Old Testament	New Testament/Psalms
Oct. 1	Genesis 34	Revelation 6
Oct. 2	Genesis 35	Revelation 7
Oct. 3	Genesis 36	Revelation 8
Oct. 4	Genesis 37	Revelation 9
Oct. 5	Genesis 38	Revelation 10
Oct. 6	Genesis 39	Revelation 11
Oct. 7	Genesis 40	Revelation 12
Oct. 8	Genesis 41	Revelation 13
Oct. 9	Genesis 42	Revelation 14
Oct. 10	Genesis 43	Revelation 15
Oct. 11	Genesis 44	Revelation 16
Oct. 12	Genesis 45	Revelation 17
Oct. 13	Genesis 46	Revelation 18
Oct. 14	Genesis 47	Revelation 19
Oct. 15	Genesis 48	Revelation 20
Oct. 16	Genesis 49	Revelation 21
Oct. 17	Genesis 50	Revelation 22
Oct. 18	1 Chronicles 1	Matthew 1
Oct. 19	1 Chronicles 2	Matthew 2
Oct. 20	1 Chronicles 3	Matthew 3
Oct. 21	1 Chronicles 4	Matthew 4
Oct. 22	1 Chronicles 5	Matthew 5
Oct. 23	1 Chronicles 6	Matthew 6
Oct. 24	1 Chronicles 7	Matthew 7
Oct. 25	1 Chronicles 8	Matthew 8
Oct. 26	1 Chronicles 9	Matthew 9
Oct. 27	1 Chronicles 10	Matthew 10
Oct. 28	1 Chronicles 11	Matthew 11
Oct. 29	1 Chronicles 12	Matthew 12
Oct. 30	1 Chronicles 13	Matthew 13
Oct. 31	1 Chronicles 14	Matthew 14

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																														
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12 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School	13 10:00 AM Matthew Group 2:00 PM Visitation Team Meeting 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Finance/Council Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	14 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	15 9:00 AM Psalm Sister Bible Study 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 3:30 PM NIFB Mobile Pantry 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:30 PM Disciples Forever	16 5:00 PM Soccer Practice	17 5:00 PM EV Band Practice 6:30 PM NI Emmaus Board	18 9:00 AM Quarterly Meeting																																																																																														
19 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Celebration Sunday	20 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Mission Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting 6:30 PM Ambassador Meeting	21 9:00 AM Retired Teachers Luncheon & Prep 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 6:00 PM Disciple 1 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	22 9:00 AM Psalm Sister Bible Study 10:30 AM Ladies Fitness Class 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 5:30 PM Disciple 3 6:30 PM Disciples Forever	23 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM Soccer Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting	24 11:00 AM Meals on Wheels 5:00 PM EV Band Practice	25 8:00 AM UWF Northern IL Conference																																																																																														
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**First United Methodist
Church**
610 Bonus Ave
Belvidere, IL 61008
Lead Pastor Jim Bell
Associate Pastor Jay Shin

Phone: 815-544-3479

E-mail: officeadmin@fumcbelvidere.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-3

Friday 9-12

After hour emergencies--847-764-6563

Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:15 Sept--May

Find us on the web @ fumcbelvidere.org



Scan the QR with
your phone, or Ipad
to go directly to our
website.



If you would like us to
to pray for you, email the
church or scan the QR
code below.

